

element clamped in the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:
tapering the thickness of the part of the seal bearing on the shaft;
a circumferential hinge groove in the flex area having a depth less than the thickness
of the sealing element in the flex area; and
a wiper lip including an ID (inside diameter) of said wiper lip that is greater than the
OD (outside diameter) of the shaft.

§6 Please cancel claim 64.

§7 Please add the following claim as a clarification of claim 50:

73 An improved housed shaft-sealing-element that has a flex area between the
part of the sealing-element to bear on the shaft and the part of the shaft-
sealing-element clamped in the housing, wherein the improvement comprises:
a circumferential hinge groove in the flex area having a depth less than the thickness
of the shaft-sealing-element in the flex area; and
a wiper lip having an inside diameter (ID) prior to forming the shaft-sealing-element
onto the shaft that is greater than the outside diameter (OD) of the shaft.

REMARKS

§8 A fee and application for an extension of time to respond accompanies this response

§9 Claims remaining in this application are: 71, 72, and 73. Claim 71 is a substitute for claim 50 and all of the claims that claim 50 is dependent on. Claim 72 is a substitute for claim 64 and all of the claims that claim 64 is dependent on. Claim 73 is a new claim based on claim 50/71 with explanatory words copied from the specifications. No new matter has been added. The number of independent claims remaining (three) is less than the number of independent claims in the original application. The remaining claims are tabulated at the end of this paper.

§10 To reduce uncertainty, and to make clear which paragraph in the application is being referred to, when referring to the application the paragraph numbers assigned by the PTO when the PTO published the application on July 1, 2004 as Publication Number US 2004/0124591 A1 will be used. Thus [0001] refers to the first paragraph of the PTO's publication of the application.

§11 The examiner expressed a concern with the abbreviations "ID" and "OD" that are used throughout the application. It is conceded that the application could have been lengthened by using,